

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 14-003915  
Issue No.: 3003  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: July 9, 2014  
County: MACOMB-DISTRICT 20

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun**

**HEARING DECISION**

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 9, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included , Hearings Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case on the basis that she failed to complete a redetermination?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On March 11, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Redetermination form that was to be completed and returned to the Department by April 1, 2014.
3. A Redetermination Telephone Interview was scheduled for April 1, 2014. (Exhibit 1)
4. On April 1, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Missed Interview informing her that she had until April 30, 2014, to complete the Redetermination and reschedule her interview or her ongoing benefits would be denied. (Exhibit 2)

5. The Department closed Claimant's FAP case effective May 1, 2014, on the basis that she failed to complete a redetermination.
6. On May 28, 2014, Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the Department's actions.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, the Department must periodically re-determine an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes a thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210 (October 2013), p 1. A FAP client must also complete a phone interview. If the client misses the interview, Bridges sends a DHS-254, Notice of Missed Interview. BAM 210, pp. 3-4. Before the Department proceeds with the FAP interview, it must receive the completed redetermination packet from the client. FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210, p 2. If the redetermination packet is not logged in by the last working day of the redetermination month, Bridges will automatically close the FAP case without sending a Notice of Case Action. BAM 210, p.10.

In this case, the Department testified that because it did not receive a completed redetermination form from Claimant by the end of the FAP certification period on April 30, 2014, it was not able to certify a new FAP benefit period and Claimant's FAP case automatically closed effective May 1, 2014. The Department stated that it did not receive any communication from Claimant regarding the redetermination or rescheduling the missed interview, prior to receiving a completed redetermination form from Claimant on May 12, 2014. (Exhibit 3).

At the hearing, Claimant confirmed that she received the redetermination form and stated that she completed the form and mailed it to the Department on or around March 31, 2014. Claimant testified that after receiving the Notice of Missed Interview, she called her case worker several times and left messages inquiring about whether the redetermination she mailed was received. Claimant provided copies of letters and notes

that she stated she submitted to the Department detailing her attempts to contact her case worker. (Exhibit A). Claimant stated that when she did not receive any return phone calls from her case worker, she went to the local Department office and was provided a new copy of the redetermination to complete. Claimant credibly testified that she dropped off the completed redetermination for a second time, along with updated check stubs to the Department on April 30, 2014, which the Department argued were not date stamped as received until May 12, 2014.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP case based on a failure to complete a redetermination.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reinstate Claimant's FAP case effective May 1, 2014;
2. Issue supplements to Claimant for any FAP benefits that she was entitled to receive but did not from May 1, 2014, ongoing; and
3. Notify Claimant in writing of its decision.



**Zainab Baydoun**

Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **7/14/2014**

Date Mailed: **7/14/2014**

ZB / tlf

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

cc:

